



Minnesota Wing Cadet Encampment

Fact Sheet

Purpose of Encampment:

National Headquarters: As stated in CAPR 52-16 "CAP encampments are designed to provide CAP members an opportunity

- (1) to apply knowledge gained in the cadet and senior programs to practical situations,
- (2) to develop a greater understanding of the CAP mission and CAP capabilities, and
- (3) to develop their potential for aerospace leadership in an actual aerospace environment.

Minnesota Wing: The goals of the encampment program in Minnesota Wing are:

- (1) To standardize basic cadet training within the state.
- (2) To develop skills in interpersonal relations.
- (3) To develop skills in time management, counseling, and teaching by the cadet staff.
- (4) To instill group cooperation and teamwork.
- (5) To instill a sense of discipline in the Cadet Corps of Minnesota Wing.
- (6) To challenge each cadet to accomplish tasks and ensure they succeed.
- (7) To develop skills in time management and teamwork amongst basic cadets.

Philosophy. Encampment can be the most significant, worthwhile training experience in a CAP cadet's career. Training is what encampment is all about. Cadets are trained. Staff members, cadet and senior, are trained. Each person at encampment is constantly learning and teaching. To achieve the overall goals, a positive attitude is essential. Each staff member has an obligation to learn as much as they possibly can and to offer the highest quality of training possible to others - subordinates and superiors alike. The staff must remember at all times that their first duty is to the members of the basic flight. Each staff member must concentrate on providing the best possible training to the cadets in their charge.

Authority. The Cadet Training Group is charged with conducting the encampment training for cadets throughout Minnesota Wing. The group is an organization of its own, with it's own internal structure. It exists at the direction of the Commander, Minnesota Wing, and the Director of Cadet Programs. The Director of Cadet Programs, or a designated representative appoints the commander each year. The commander of the CTG is appointed on a wing personnel authorization, subordinate staff members may be appointed on CTG personnel authorizations. The CTG is a cadet organization, subordinate to the Wing Commander, Director of Cadet Programs, and senior staff at encampment.

History

Encampment. The Civil Air Patrol Encampment program traces its lineage to the basic training concepts of the United States Army. Prior to World War II, the common practice was for soldiers to join their unit of assignment and receive their initial training there. During World War II, basic training for Army personnel was consolidated into numerous training units for "Basic Training". Personnel who were selected to follow a set training curriculum conducted this training. The training was somewhat similar to the type of training given to West Point Cadets, although the program was changed to suit the needs of enlisted soldiers. At the conclusion of this training, soldiers were assigned to their units.

Another contributor to the encampment program was the "Aviation Cadet" program. This system selected candidates for flight training. Since the majority of pilots in the U.S. Army Air Corps (after September 1941 the U.S. Army Air Forces) were commissioned officers, training was also provided in military skills. Flight training in the Aviation Cadet program frequently took advantage of the availability of civilian flight instructors.

To assist with military training, active duty officers were assigned to training centers. Frequently, these officers had only recently been commissioned themselves. Their purpose was to teach customs and courtesies, drill and ceremonies and other military skills, including military tactics. This concept had originally been used at West Point, which had assigned officers to teach cadets. Both at West Point and in the Aviation Cadet program, these officers were known as "Tactical

Officers". This title has been retained in the CAP encampment program, even though the USAF no longer refers to similar positions by that title.

The military training programs now used by the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps is still similar to the type of training provided during the 1940's and 1950's. Training philosophies have changed placing more emphasis on preparing trainees to be able to acquire future skills and less emphasis on strict discipline for the pure sake of discipline.

Military training provided to Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets and Officer Candidate School students also evolved from the same background, with added emphasis on leadership development.

During the 1950's, CAP encampments were the highlight of a cadet's training experience. Encampments were typically two weeks long and frequently away from the cadet's home state. Housing, mess and training facilities were abundant since many of the WWII facilities were still being used by the Air Force. The grades of Cadet Lieutenant Colonel and Cadet Colonel were reserved for use at encampment. Completion of encampment was a prerequisite to earning the Certificate of Proficiency (COP). When the Certificate of Proficiency was renamed to the "General Billy Mitchell Award" in 1965, encampment completion was retained as a requirement. Earning the Mitchell Awards allows CAP Cadets to enlist in the Armed Forces at a higher pay grade and Advanced Placement in Air Force ROTC.

In the 1960's and 1970's, encampment training was modified to accommodate more teenagers with summer jobs and also to adapt to changing Air Force training needs. The Vietnam War occupied the attention of the Air Force, while modernization projects eliminate more WWII facilities. Since the Air Force had standardized basic training to one facility (Lackland AFB, Texas), there was no longer any need for "Troop Housing" of the type adaptable to CAP training needs.

The encampment program of today manages to encompass realistic training goals in a well-organized, but compressed time frame. Encampments may be held on military facilities of any service and even on non-military facilities if the need arises.

Curriculum. The academic training program at encampment is designed to provide the basic cadet with a broad base of information on the United States Air Force, the Civil Air Patrol and particularly the CAP Cadet program. The academic program consists of the following units of instruction (Ref. CAPR 52-16):

- Introduction to Encampment
 - USAF-CAP Relationship
 - The Cadet Honor Code
 - CAP Mission
 - CAP Moral Leadership
 - CAP Organization
- Attitude and Discipline
 - Search and Rescue
 - Customs and Courtesies
 - Civil Defense
 - Individual Drill and Ceremonies
 - USAF Aerospace Doctrine
 - Drill of the Flight
 - Opportunities in CAP
 - Squadron and Group Ceremonies
 - Conclusion to Encampment

Upon completion of these units of instruction, the cadet will have a standardized foundation upon which to build his/her later experience.

Minnesota Wing has conducted it's encampment on Grand Forks AFB for the past 7 years.

For more information about the current year's encampment go to the Minnesota Wing Public Affairs Website:
www.mnwg.cap.gov/pa

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